

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

Thank you for hearing SB 99-2, I strongly support SB 99 with the -2 Amendments.

I am a queer single parent in Portland Oregon and would like to ensure I am able to age in place as I get older without negatively impacting my family's health, financial resilience, and overall quality of life.

Older adults in our community face multiple barriers when trying to access health and social services. Recent studies have shown that our LGBTQIA2S+ elders are facing prejudice, discrimination and abuse when trying to access healthcare, housing and other services. This bill which was developed as a result of the 2021 Oregon LGBTQ+ Older Adult Survey and with extensive input by stakeholders, consumers, individuals with lived experience and individuals who identify with this community.

SB 99 would create an LGBTQ+ long-term care facility resident's bill of rights to protect residents from discriminatory actions taken by long-term care facilities. This bill specifically includes prohibitions on actions taken wholly or partially based on one's perceived gender identity, sexual orientation, or HIV status such as denying admission, transfer, or discharge requests; inappropriate room assignments for transgender patients; and denying or restricting medical or non-medical care.

Thank you for your consideration, please pass SB 99-2.

Sincerely,
Megan Crowell
Portland, OR